

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-10, and 12-30 are pending, with claims 1, 10, 19 and 25 being independent. Claims 13-14 and 19-30 have been cancelled by this amendment without prejudice. Claims 1, 7-12, and 16-18 have been amended. New claims 31-44 have been added, with claims 33 and 39 being independent. No new matter has been added. After this amendment, claims 1, 4-10, 12, 15-18, and 31-44 are now pending, with claims 1, 10, 33 and 39 being independent. Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Noriyuki (US Patent No. 6,510,159) in view of Lowry (US Patent No. 5,970,066). This contention is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to more clearly express the patentable distinctions of the claimed subject matter. As amended, claim 1 specifies a routing system that includes a switch configured to process network packets, including distinguishing between data packets and control packets in the network packets and sending a control packet to a controller.

Noriyuki teaches a system that teaches forwarding data packets using a virtual interface to avoid conventional route

lookup of the packet forwarding. Lowry teaches a virtual Ethernet interface, that allows carrying out communications over the Internet using a virtual interface driver that acts in place of certain Internet functionalities. Neither Noriyuki nor Lowry teach or suggest distinguishing between data packets and control packets in a switch and sending a control packet to a controller.

Additionally, claim 1 specifies that the routing system includes a controller configured to receive the control packet from the switch and deliver the control packet to a network stack of the controller such that a networking application of the controller views the control packet as if the control packet came directly from a local interface, the local interface being a virtual interface of the controller that corresponds to a physical interface of the switch.

For all of these reasons, independent claim 1 should be in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 4-9 and 31 are patentable based on the above arguments and their own merits.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to specify a routing system that includes a switch configured to process network packets, including distinguishing between data packets to be handled locally and control packets to be forwarded, the switch comprising multiple physical interfaces. For reasons similar to

those above, neither Noriyuki nor Lowry teach or suggest distinguishing between data packets to be handled locally and control packets to be forwarded.

Additionally, claim 10 specifies that the routing system includes a controller comprising one or more pseudo device drivers providing multiple virtual interfaces corresponding respectively to the multiple physical interfaces of the switch, and the controller being configured to control the switch by sending control information to the switch through an appropriate virtual interface of the one or more pseudo device drivers.

For all of these reasons, independent claim 10 should be in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 12, 15-18, and 32 are patentable based on the above arguments and their own merits.

Claims 13-14 and 19-30 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 31-44 have been added. Independent claims 33 and 39 specify a method and article that perform one or more operations including employing a pseudo device driver in a controller of a distributed Internet Protocol router to provide a single-router view of multiple Internet Protocol switches to a network application of the controller, the distributed Internet Protocol router comprising the Internet Protocol switches and the controller operatively connected through a device communication medium. The art of record fails

to teach or suggest this claimed subject matter. Dependent claims 34-38 and 40-44 are patentable based on the above arguments and their own merits.

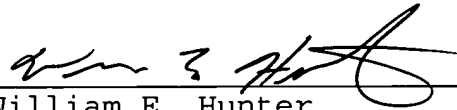
It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that issue or comment. Because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

It is respectfully suggested for all of these reasons, that the current rejection is totally overcome; that none of the cited art teaches or suggests the features which are now claimed, and therefore that all of the now pending claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice of allowance is thus respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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